

FATHER PATEGMA FRANÇOIS SEDGO, Camillian Religious



Father François SEDGO, Camillian religious of the Camillian Province of Burkina Faso, born in 1952. He is the first Camillian religious in Africa. After primary school in Linoghin and a brief stay with the Benedictine monks of Koubri, he entered the Saint Camille Boys' Juvenile from September 1968 to 1972. He was part of the very first class of juveniles, under the direction of Father Gaetano

de Sanctis. He made his first temporary religious profession on 8 September 1973, then his solemn profession on 18 April 1982 in the parish church of Saint Camille de Lellis in Dagnoë (Ouagadougou).

Father François SEDGO was ordained a priest on 10 July 1983 by His Eminence Cardinal Paul ZOUNGRANA, of venerable memory.

Rather than talking about his rich professional career, Father SEDGO likes to share his experience of the Camillian ministry.

Here is a summary of his appointments and functions after his ordination to the priesthood.

From 1983 to 1985: Formator and teacher at the Saint Camille Boys' Juvenile.

From 1985 to 1990: He was sent to Rome. He was chaplain at the Saint Camille Hospital in Rome. He studied professional nursing in Rome at the Saint John of God Hospital (1985-1988). At the end of his nursing studies, he enrolled at the Camillianum in Rome for a licentiate in Pastoral Health Theology (1990).

From 1990 to 1995: Chaplain at the Yalgado OUEDRAOGO Hospital in Ouagadougou.

From 1995 to 1996: Chaplain again at the Saint Camille Hospital in Rome. He defended his doctoral thesis in Pastoral Health Theology in Rome in 1996.

From 1996 to 1998: Trainer and teacher at the Saint Camille Boys' Juvenile.

From 1998 to 2000: Member of the community at the Saint Camille Medical Centre in Nanoro, where he worked as a state-registered nurse.

From 1998 to 2003: Professor of Fundamental Theology at the Saint Jean Baptiste de Wayalghin and Saint Pierre et Saint Paul Major Seminaries in Burkina Faso.

From 2002 to 2013: Father François SEDGO was President of the National Catholic Committee for the Fight against HIV/AIDS and a member of the National Council for the Fight against HIV/AIDS on behalf of the Episcopal Conference of Burkina-Niger.

From 2007 to 2010: He was Provincial Vicar of the Camillians in Burkina Faso and Superior of the Parish Community.

At the same time, from 2006 to 2016, he is Professor of Medical Ethics at the University of Saint Thomas Aquinas of the Episcopal Conference of Burkina-Niger.

From 2013 to 2016: He was parish priest of Saint Camille Parish in Ouagadougou and superior of the religious community of the parish.

From 2016 to 2019: He was a member of the Villa Sacra Famiglia community and a teacher at the Camillianum in Rome.

2019-2024: He is a member of the religious community of the parish and Sunday vicar at the Parish of Saint Camille in Ouagadougou.

Father François SEDGO was well prepared to care for the sick in body (his training as a qualified nurse) and in soul (his training in pastoral health theology).

He also had the opportunity to bear witness to the Camillian charism in the world of education and contributed to the training of priests. He taught Fundamental Theology at the Saint Pierre Saint Paul Major Seminary and the Saint Jean Baptiste Major Seminary in Wayalghin (Ouagadougou), Medical Ethics at the University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Sâaba (Burkina Faso), and Pastoral Health Theology at the Camillianum in Rome and at the Centre for Pastoral Health (Camillianum) in Ouagadougou since 2019. He also taught at the Saint Camille Private Health Institute in Ouagadougou and at the Saint Dominique University of West Africa in Kombissiri. Everywhere he went, he had a positive impact on the young people in training.

Since September 2024, he has been a member of the Saint Camille Juvenile community for boys and spiritual guide to the juveniles and postulants. He was the beloved papi (grandfather) of the students as well as the faithful Christians who attend Mass at the Saint Camille Juvenile.

Many people remember Father François SEDGO for taking the fight against HIV/AIDS to heart. Following in the footsteps of Saint Camille and his companions, who braved distance and the vicissitudes of the road to exercise their charism of mercy, he travelled fearlessly, often alone, to different localities in Burkina Faso and the sub-

region to raise awareness about the AIDS pandemic. He has written awareness-raising brochures ("My AIDS Booklet", translated into various languages of the country), books on HIV/AIDS, organised and led seminars and colloquiums on the theme of the fight against AIDS, and made a 52-minute film on the issue of HIV in couples and families. On 8 December 2010, he was awarded the title of Chevalier de l'Ordre National in Ouagadougou by the Presidency of Burkina Faso.

In keeping with his sense of belonging to the Family and as Provincial Vicar (2006 to 2010), Fr. François SEDGO was committed to the development of the Vice- Camillian Province on all levels, including interprovincial relations and collaboration, the stability of structures and planning for the future (self-sufficiency, areas for expressing charisma, etc.).

His confreres and those who met him always found him to be a very cheerful religious, full of humour, patient, kind, attentive, sensitive to poverty and human suffering, and fond of sharing. He was very pious and faithful to prayer, spending hours in prayer. He loved his Camillian religious life. Even when he was no longer in good health, he always went to visit the sick at home and sick priests in their residences, strengthened by the Camillian beatitude: "Blessed is the Servant of the Sick who spends his life in this holy service".

Father François was called back to God on 30 October 2025 at the Santa Giuseppina Vannini Hospital in Rome, where he had been evacuated from Burkina Faso, surrounded by his Camillian confreres and many Daughters of Saint Camillus.

Lord, we thank you for giving him to us as a pioneer. In your mercy, grant him the promised reward and may he intercede for us with you.