



The life goes on at CACAJ

The *Associação Centro de Acolhimento de Crianças Arnaldo Janssen* in Angola is a center administered by the Society of the Divine Word. This apostolate came about during the war when the children were abandoned by parents and families because people were moving from place to place for survival.

Today with Covid-19, the work becomes more challenging. I am working there for more than four years as a helper in the social area. I also volunteer as a Psychologist. One of my challenges is to help the children understand the situation and to follow and obey some rules to avoid the pandemic getting into the center.

So, I Brother Sebastiao I spend time with the children every day. Aside from that I teach Portuguese and English and oversee the Physical education programs. I also conduct first aid when someone is hurt in the football matches or any other accidents that require immediate attention.

We have a small pharmacy that I manage. The pharmacy is supported by donors or benefactors. But sometimes we need to buy medicines and sometimes they are very expensive.

The greatest difficulty at the moment is that the Center does not have funds to guarantee its operations. We get support from the people, from donors and benefactors. At times there are industries that pitch in and even supermarkets.

When I started working in the Center in 2006, the number of children was 125. Beginning this year, I work with around 90 children. During the COVID-19 the number of children went down to 65.

I know the children by their names. I accompany and guide them to grow in knowledge, wisdom, and happiness. The children see me as a friend, their older





brother, or father. They normally address me as their uncle. A cultural expression of affinity and trust.

My experience as an SVD Brother is to be an exemplary father, older brother, and uncle. Every day I teach and help in some administrative tasks, as well as in the social area and education. Sometimes I feel tired but when I remember the children, I get energy and strength to go there. This spirit I bring along to make the children happy and experience a sense of belonging.



Thanks to God, St. Arnold Janssen, and Joseph Freinademetz. They are my inspiration in life as SVD Brother.

