

PIARIST FATHERS (officially known as the **Order of Poor Clerics Regular of the Mother of God of the Pious Schools**) is a Clerical Order which was founded by a Spanish priest, St. Joseph Calasanz in Rome on March 6, 1617. **Our charism is the Evangelization through the integral education of children and young people especially the poor ones.** After being founded in Rome, the Piarist fathers came to Cameroon in 1987 and settled in the West region precisely in Bamendjou. This our charism (*integral education of children and youths especially the poor ones*) is lived in Cameroon through teaching in schools, caring for street children and working in parishes, always paying particular attention to children from poor homes, the abandoned, Orphans, the destitute and those who feel they no longer have a future in life. Therefore, with these poor children and young people, we bring to them hope, put a smile on their faces and above all lead them to Christ following his instruction “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Mark 10:14). In Cameroon, we have communities in Yaoundé, where we have a school, a center for street children and a parish; in Bafia, a school, a socio-cultural center and a parish; in Bandjoun, a school; in Bamendjou, we are running seven different elementary schools and a parish; in Bamenda (Futru and Menteh) we run three elementary schools and a parish and finally we are in Kumbo. It is in line with this that the Piarist Fathers in Cameroon came up **Childrenfirst-Africa** in order to promote the wellbeing of children.