

PADRE PEDRO

Padre Pedro Opeka was born in 1948 on June the 29th in Argentina, San Martin, a suburb of Buenos Aires, from parents of Slovene origin. He worked with his father, as a bricklayer, until he was 15, when he entered the seminary of the Vincentians (Lazarists) fathers to train as a priest. In his early 20's, he travelled to Madagascar, where he discovered

his vocation as a missionary. He met the Taizé Community, an ecumenical,



Padre Pedro celebrating the Mass

monastic community in southern France comprised of over 100 brothers from both catholic and Protestant traditions, and travelled all over Europe. In 1975, he was ordained priest in Buenos Aires and was granted responsibility for a rural parish in the South-East of Madagascar, Vangaindrano. In 1989, his superiors nominated him director of a seminary in Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar. This is when a new story starts. Padre Pedro could not remain indifferent to the misery of thousands of homeless living in impoverished conditions, in the streets or in rubbish tips. Padre Pedro became friends with these poor people and gained their confidence. This is how the Akamasoa association was born...

AKAMASOA

Akamasoa means “good friends” and it is a fabulous story of solidarity towards the people of Madagascar, started in 1989 by Padre Pedro.

Thanks to his continuous hard work and to the solidarity of the volunteers, associations and supporters all over the world, today Akamasoa



The canteen of children

is a community of 17,000 people just outside Antananarivo. Families who have been reduced by poverty to live in slums and to collect garbage to survive can find a real hospital, a school for their children, a brick house, a job to earn their living – in short live a dignified life.



A family asks Padre Pedro for help in the slum of Antananarivo

TO SUPPORT A PROJECT

Akamasoa today:

- + 15 villages have been built in various regions of Madagascar;
- + 17,000 people have found a home;
- + over 9,000 children go to school;
- + over 25,000 people received medical assistance in 2008.



The houses of Akamasoa

THERE IS STILL A LOT TO ACHIEVE...

The most urgent projects requiring support include:

- + construction of a water cistern for over 180,000 litres to fight the chronic scarcity of water in Akamasoa;
- + extension of the sheltering centre to provide a greater number of people with food, clothes, blankets, medicines;
- + increased brick housing to provide accommodation for dispossessed families;
- + classroom expansion to educate the children of Madagascar.

YOU CAN HELP TOO!

MADAGASCAR

This big island is also called the 'red island' for the red colour of its earth, rich in iron.

Area: 590,000 km²
(almost three times Great Britain)

Population: 18 million inhabitants of which 1.7 million live in Antananarivo

Madagascar holds the world record with regards to lowest income per person: 75% of the population live below the poverty threshold.

Despite their poverty, the people from Madagascar have an optimistic nature, a notable capacity to adapt and are extremely welcoming and warm. The country offers landscapes of a rare beauty with rich biodiversity.



ABOUT US

The association was born in Italy from the initiative of a group of friends who wish to support Padre Pedro in his fight to re-establish dignity and hope to the families and children of Madagascar.

Having known Padre Pedro we have been captivated by his energy, his pragmatic approach and his nobility of spirit.

We were amazed at seeing thousands of children singing and dancing during the Sunday mass with incredible enthusiasm.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

With a bank transfer to:

Amici di Padre Pedro Onlus
Banca Popolare Etica

EU IBAN: IT41 C050 1803 2000 0000 0122 121



AMICI DI PADRE PEDRO ONLUS

REGISTERED OFFICE:

via dei Prefetti 36 - 00186 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39-392 32 12 835 + +39-06 68136630

info@amicipadrepedro.org

WWW.AMICIPADREPEDRO.ORG

FOR A BETTER WORLD

FRIENDS OF PADRE PEDRO



**HELPING THE POOREST
IN MADAGASCAR
FIND HOPE**



**ASSOCIATION TO SUPPORT THE
ACTION OF PADRE PEDRO**