

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COTTAGE

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RETIREMENT RESIDENCE OF ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS OF BAMENDA  
ARCHDIOCESE

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# GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO CAMEROON AND NORTHWEST REGION

Cameroon is located at the crossroads of West and Central Africa in the Gulf of Guinea.

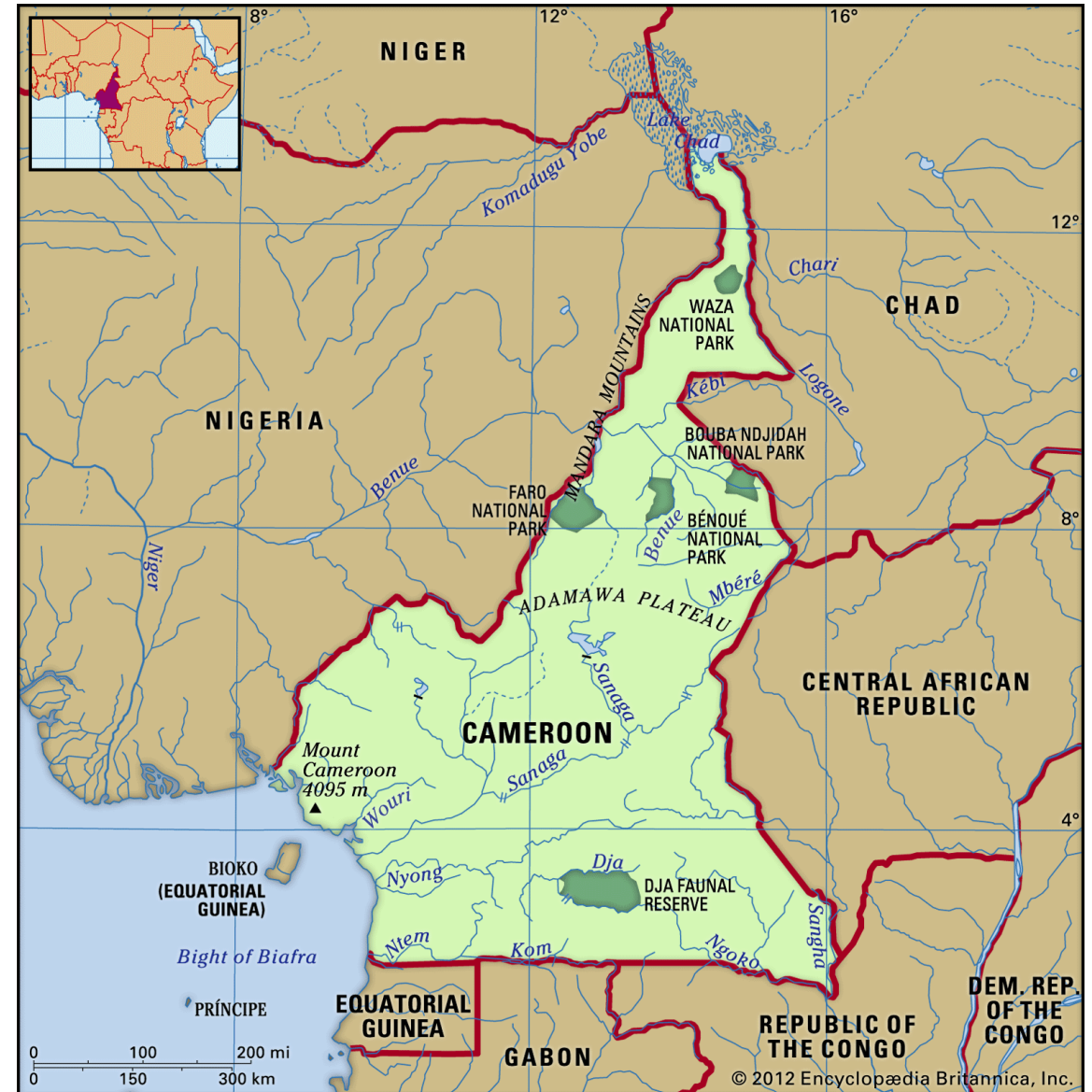
Basic facts:

Total Population – 26.3 million

55% Catholic

GDP – 1,499.37 USD (2020)

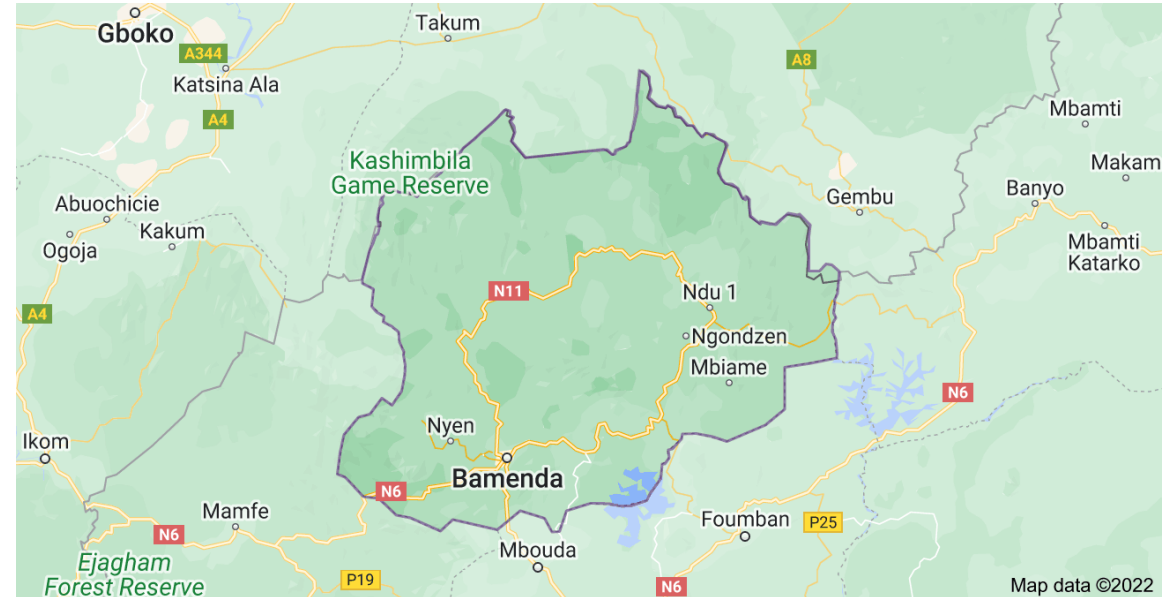
Main Languages: English and French



# SOCIO POLITICAL CONTEXT OF NORTHWEST REGION

Northwest Region of Cameroon consists of population of about 2million people. The capital is Bamenda. Since September, 2017 Northwest and Southwest Regions (Anglophone Region) in Cameroon have been in an insurgency to separate from the larger Francophone Regions in Cameroon.

The Northwest and Southwest Regions are currently under emergency rule imposed by the central government. The insurgency and the government response has unleashed violence on the general population.



# GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BAMENDA

The Metropolitan Archdiocese of Bamenda was created in 1970 with the Archbishop Paul Verdzekov as her first leader. In December 2004, Bishop Cornelius F Esua was appointed Co-adjutor Archbishop of Bamenda and was installed as the second Metropolitan Archbishop of Bamenda in January 2006. In December 2019 Bishop Andrew F Nkea was appointed Co-adjutor and installed as third Metropolitan Archbishop February 2020.

- The Archdiocese of Bamenda has 615,011 Catholics, a total population of 1,457,05 people (44% of total population is Catholic). 10,724 square kilometers.
- 57 parishes, 198 priests (157 diocesan, 41 religious)
- 155 lay religious (32 brothers ; 123 sisters)
- 137 seminarians

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COTTAGE



## BUILDING OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COTTAGE

Archbishop Emeritus Esua has raised \$200,000 (100,000 Francs CFA) for the construction of the Immaculate Conception Cottage thus far.



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COTTAGE

The Cottage has:

A dining hall

Chapel and Grotto

Two full contained apartments  
for two retired bishops

An apartment for a priest

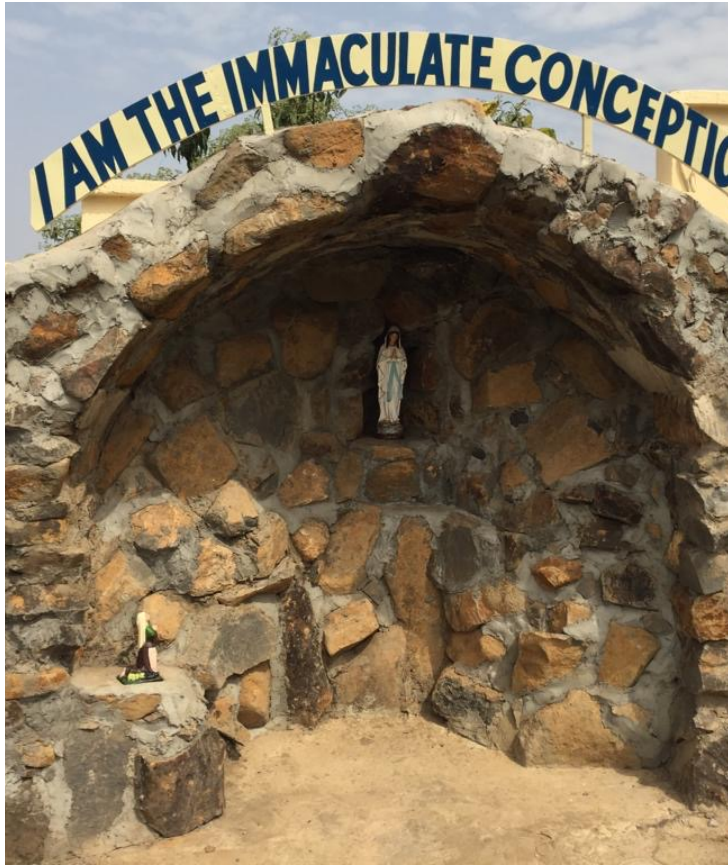
And several self-contained  
apartments for visitors





# THE CHAPEL





Grotto dedicated to Our of  
Lourdes

**LOURDES GROTTTO**

# BLESSING OF THE COTTAGE

Archbishop Emeritus Esua blessed and opened  
the cottage on February 5, 2022



# NEEDED AMENITIES

4X4 Car      \$50,000 (Before import duties)

Building for house staff      \$27,000 (estimate)

Solar Power Tower      \$12,000 (estimate)

Borehole Water System      \$10,000 (estimate)

**COST  
PROJECTIONS  
FOR AMENITIES**

**FUNDRAISING GOAL**

**\$100,000**

FRIENDS OF  
IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION  
COTTAGE

**A group of generous individuals who support the establishment of Immaculate Conception Cottage.**

# ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS CORNELIUS FONTEM ESUA

Archbishop Cornelius F Esua was born on July 2, 1943, in Mbetta Village in Nguti Sub Division, Southwest Region of Cameroon. He is the third of seventeen children. His parents were among the first converts to Christianity, evangelized by the German Pallottine and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Archbishop Esua attended St Theresa's Catholic Primary School, Mbetta and later St Joseph's College, Sasse-Buea.

In 1964, Archbishop Esua started priestly formation at Bigard Memorial Seminary in Enugu, Nigeria where he studied Philosophy. In 1967 he transferred to Pontifical Urbanian University, Rome in Italy, where he finished a degree in Theology. On December 29, 1971, he was ordained a priest. From 1973 to 1977 he studied Scriptures in the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Archbishop Esua holds graduate degrees in Theology and Holy Scriptures. He is fluent in many languages including Lekongho (Mbo), West African Kereole English, French, Italian, German, Latin, Greek and Hebrew.

Archbishop Esua has held different positions including Associate Pastor, St Joseph's Parish, Mamfe, Southwest Region, Professor of Sacred Scriptures and Biblical Languages at St Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary, Bambui – Bamenda. In September 1982 Archbishop Esua was appointed Bishop and ordained on 8<sup>th</sup> December of the same year as founding bishop of Kumbo Diocese in Northwest Region of Cameroon. In December 2004 he was appointed Co-adjutor Archbishop of Bamenda and became the second Metropolitan Archbishop of Bamenda in January 2006. In 2009 he helped found the Catholic University of Cameroon (CATUC) and was its first chancellor. Archbishop Esua retired from the Metropolitan See of Bamenda in February 2020.

Archbishop Esua was member of many commissions at the national and international levels including being a member of the Synod Council of the Special Assembly for Africa of the Synod of Bishops, Member of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue and of the Catholic Methodist International Committee, President of Pan African Association of Catholic Exegetes, Vice President and President of the National Episcopal Conference of Cameroon, President of the Episcopal Commission for the Doctrine of the Faith, member of the Executive Committee of the Catholic Biblical Federation, of the Committee for the Biblical Center for Africa and Madagascar and many others.

Archbishop Esua has dedicated his life and ministry to caring for the poorest of the poor, people with disabilities, forming young people and the Family Ministry. In his spare time, he loves to hike, read and travel.



# BANK ACCOUNT INFORMATION

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# GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION

I wish to express my profound and immense gratitude to those who came up with the idea of “Friends of the Immaculate Conception Cottage”, to all the friends and benefactors who have collaborated to make it become a reality. I very much appreciate your love and sacrifices on my behalf and of all the beneficiaries. “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;  
their righteousness endures forever.”

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”

(2 Cor. 9:6-10).

+Cornelius Fontem Esua  
Archbishop Emeritus of Bamenda

CLOSING  
REMARKS  
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