

Thank you for offering us a new vehicle

St. John Paul II Theological Seminary of Lodja (D.R.Congo)

Thank you very much!

Dear friends of Father Laurent Okitakatshi and good people of God in the United States of America, peace be with you all during this Easter Season!

For us, the joy of Easter has been doubled with the arrival of a new vehicle for the St. John Paul II Seminary community. Thanks to your unparalleled generosity, our house of formation has now a brand new and reliable Toyota Land Cruiser for ministry.

What a relief! Now we can easily have access to vital services and medical care in Lodja and surrounding cities.



The brand new Toyota in parking, in Kinshasa, from Germany, after passing through customs.





The vehicle arrives at the seminary

On Monday, May 19, 2025, the vehicle finally arrived at the Seminary after seven days on the road from Kinshasa. Before leaving Kinshasa, the windows were tinted, the baggage carrier was mounted, and protection to the front of the vehicle was added.



Some seminarians rushed from their rooms where they were studying for finals, shouting for joy at the sight of their new vehicle. They are mainly in shorts because it's very hot these days and it was a free time moment.

Blessing of the new Toyota

After morning Mass on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, Fr. Laurent gathered the seminary community for the blessing of the new vehicle. He explained how many of his friends in the US donated toward the project and asked everyone in the community to continue to pray for the benefactors.





Running errands in the open market of Lodja (7 miles from the seminary)





Words can't express our deep gratitude. Getting this vehicle was a big project. However, you all responded with love and generosity. As a community, we always pray for you and your loved ones. We ask that the Lord would bless you and keep you. We also hope that you would consider becoming our mission partners to sustain us as we struggle to meet the many challenges in the formation of young men to the Holy Priesthood.

May Saint John Paul II, our Patron Saint, and the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, intercede for us all.

Gratefully,

Priests and seminarians of the Saint John Paul II Seminary of Lodja (DRC)