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Message of the Holy Father Francis to the participants in the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM)

The following is the message sent on behalf of the Holy Father Francis by Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin, to Archbisop Gabriel Mbilingi C.S.Sp., of Lubango, on the occasion of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar, taking place in Uganda from 21 to 28 July 2019:

Message

From the Vatican, 16 July 2019

The Most Reverend Gabriel Mbilingi
Archbishop of Lubango
President
Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar

His Holiness Pope Francis was pleased to learn of the celebrations marking the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar, and he asks you kindly to convey his prayerful greetings to all gathered for the event. Joining you in thanking Almighty God for the many graces received by SECAM and for the fraternal communion that has characterized its work over these fifty years, His Holiness prays that its members may be strengthened in missionary discipleship, for “the great work of evangelization consists in striving to make the Gospel permeate every aspect of our lives so that we, in turn, can bring it to others” (Address to Representatives of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar, 7 February 2015). In this way, SECAM will continue to be of valuable service to the local Churches throughout the entire continent of Africa. Entrusting those attending the celebrations to the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, the Holy Father willingly imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of peace and joy in the Lord.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin

