

AFRICAN SAINTS

**Blessed Anuarite Maria Clementine Nengapeta
of Matali, Congo (now in Zaire)**

Martyred on December 1, 1964



*Blessed Sister Marie Clementine
Anuarite Nengapeta*

Although not born into a Christian family, Anuarite (1939-1964) along with her mother and sisters sought and received Baptism in 1943. As a young girl, Anuarite felt an inclination toward the spiritual life. At fifteen, she entered the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Family at Bafwabaka. There she took as her religious name Maria Clementine. Five years later, she took the religious vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience. By her daily demonstration of faith, hope, and love, she earned among her fellow sisters the reputation of being a genuine “servant of the Lord”. She did all that she did for the love of Christ.

Ever since the natives had declared the political independence of the Belgian Congo (now Zaire) in 1960, the nation experienced sporadic politico-military turmoil. During one of those periods, when the military was usurping the prominence and power rightfully reserved for political leaders, Anuarite literally crossed the path of a military parade. A colonel named Olombe called for the young nun to come to him. When she responded, the colonel made sexual advances. Anuarite refused to succumb to the harassment. Angered that the young nun rejected him, the colonel killed her on the spot. The whole country immediately recognized her as a martyr in defense of sexual purity.

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