PEOPLE OF SIGNIFICANCE

A STORY OF COURAGE

A young man from Bokendela (Congo) who received the sacrament of baptism at around the age of 18 from a group of missionaries. He swiftly became very devout in his new found faith and decided to move to a larger settlement to be with more Catholics. He found himself working on a rubber plantation run by a Belgian company where, unfortunately, the owners did not much like Catholics.

The superintendent of the plantation probably didn't like Catholicism as it promotes justice and equality. One day he tore Isidore's scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel off him and had him severely beaten. He was then chained up and left in the jungle.

An inspector came to visit the plantation where, whilst walking around, Isadore managed to crawl out from the jungle and was seen by the inspector. The inspector took him to his own settlement but Isidore died a few months later in 1909 from his injuries. He forgave his assaulters and commended them to his prayers.

PRAYER

Through the intercession of Isidore Bakanja give us a steadfast faith, especially in the face of adversity. Lord, give us a heart for forgiveness and help us to forgive those who try to do us harm. Help us to fight to free all Christians around the globe who are in any way oppressed, may we all live in freedom and faith.
Amen

What's your significant story?

"If you see my mother, or if you go to the judge, or if you meet a priest, tell them that I am dying because I am a Christian."

BL. ISIDORE BAKANJA